

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

(1)

Health Department,
Comewell House,
North Street,
Horsham.

July, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee
of the Horsham Urban District
Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Laughton and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith a short Interim Report on the health of the District and the work of the Health Department. It will be appreciated that, owing to war conditions, the work of the Department has increased materially and for this reason there has been considerable delay in collecting the necessary figures for the completion of this report. I have therefore taken the unusual course of preparing a report to cover the years 1939 and 1940, figures for each year being shown separately. By this means a saving in both time and paper has been effected. It will be noted that, in the interests of economy, the report has not been printed as in previous years.

The outstanding events of the period under review were the outbreak of war and the intensive Air Raid Precautions work which preceded it. The district was scheduled as a Reception Area under the Government Evacuation Scheme, and early in September 1939, 2,299 members of the priority classes were received in the Urban District. The Chief Sanitary Inspector had been appointed by the Council as Billeting Officer, and these circumstances necessitated serious curtailment of routine Public Health work such as house inspection etc.

The Council, in co-operation with the Horsham Rural District Council, had established an Evacuation Hospital at Kilnwood, Faygate, where accommodation was provided for 36 children, cases of scabies, impetigo, measles, whooping-cough etc. being admitted for treatment. As a result of hard work by a number of voluntary helpers the premises, which had been unoccupied for several years and were in a neglected state, were prepared and stood ready to receive patients when evacuation commenced. The total

(2)

(Cont).

number of patients admitted between September 1939 and October 1940 was 154, and at no time did the number under treatment exceed 24. Owing to the drift-back of evacuees, it proved unnecessary to retain this hospital in active use, and on account of expense and staffing difficulties it was decided to transfer the work to Tan Cottage, Horsham, in October 1940. Although this is a smaller house, the accommodation has proved adequate to meet all needs.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Committee with whom my work is particularly connected, and to acknowledge the loyal assistance of all members of the Health Department, and the co-operation of the Chief Officers of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

KENNETH N. MAWSON

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA, 1939.

Area (Acres).....	1,843
Population at Census, 1931.....	13,550
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1939)	
for calculation of birth rate.....	15,210
" " " death rate.....	15,860
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books.....	4,608
Rateable Value.....	£132,660
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£508

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Live Births(Legitimate.....	194	87	107) Birth Rate
(Illegitimate.....	8	3	5) 13.28
Still Births.....	9	3	6) Rate per 1,000
) Total Births 48.07
Deaths.....	184	96	88	Death Rate 11.6
England & Wales Birth Rate..	15.0			Death Rate 12.1
West Sussex Urban Districts Birth Rate...	13.53			Death Rate 13.32
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-				
	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000.</u>	<u>Total Births</u>	
Puerperal Sepsis.....	0	...	0.00	
Other Puerperal Causes...	0	...	0.00	
Total.....	0	...	0.00	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	14.85
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births....	15.46
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births...	0.00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	32
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	0

The chief causes of death were:-

Heart Disease.....	58
Cancer.....	32
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	11
Pneumonia.....	8
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.....	6
Senility.....	5

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA, 1940.

Area (Acres).....	1,843
Population at Census, 1931.....	13,550
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1940).....	16,540
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books.....	4,602
Rateable Value.....	£136,795
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£532

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Live Births(Legitimate.....	201	92	109) Birth Rate
(Illegitimate.....	7	4	3) 12.63
Still Births.....	11	6	5) Rate per 1,000
) Total Births 50.2
Deaths.....	256	143	113	Death Rate 15.47
England & Wales Birth Rate..	14.6			Death Rate 14.3
West Sussex Urban Districts Birth Rate...	11.57			Death Rate 14.99

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u>	<u>Total Births.</u>
Puerperal Sepsis.....	0	...	0.00
Other Puerperal Causes.	1	...	4.58
Total.....	1	...	4.58

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	50.23
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births.....	54.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.	0.00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	34
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	0

The chief causes of death were:-

Heart Disease.....	80
Cancer.....	34
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	22
Pneumonia.....	18
Bronchitis.....	16

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were notified during:-

	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940.</u>
Scarlet Fever.....	15	15
Diphtheria.....	9	1
Pneumonia.....	5	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	2
C.S.M.....	-	3(1 M).
Dysentery.....	-	1(M).
Erysipelas.....	2	1
Measles.....	X	143
Whooping Cough.....	X	6
Phemphigus Neonatorum.....	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	-	1

X = Not notifiable.

M. = Military Case.

It will be noted that no epidemics of any kind occurred. Fears which had been expressed that the transfer of population in connection with the Evacuation Scheme, with the resultant mixing of urban and rural dwellers, would lead to a spread of infectious diseases, fortunately proved groundless.

Measles and Whooping Cough were added to the list of notifiable infectious diseases by the Provisional Regulations dated October 1939, which were superseded by the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940. Unfortunately many children suffering from these diseases do not receive medical attention, owing to the mistaken idea, commonly held by parents, that they are trivial complaints. Thus the notification rate does not necessarily indicate the true incidence of these diseases.

The Council make an annual grant to the local Nursing Association towards the provision of nursing for Measles and Pneumonia.

T U B E R C U L O S I S .

1939.

- a). The number of cases notified for first time
during the year..... 3
b). The number of cases added to Register other
than by formal notification..... 3

	(a).	(b).
Pulmonary Males....	3	2
Females....	-	1
	3	3

There were six deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis; two Male and four Female.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1939 was 93.

1940.

The number of cases added to the Register during
the year..... 15

Pulmonary Males... 6	Non-Pulmonary Males... 1
Females... 5	Females... 3

11

4

There were four deaths from Tuberculosis; 3 pulmonary (1 Male, 2 Female); 1 non-pulmonary (Female).

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1940 was 96.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

Prior to the outbreak of War, an Emergency Laboratory Service was organised by the Medical Research Council, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, in order to augment the existing facilities for bacteriological diagnostic work for Public Health purposes. One of the Emergency Laboratories under this scheme was established at Christ's Hospital, and work was undertaken, in the first place, without charge. This service, whereby reports could be obtained without loss of time due to postal delays, proved of the greatest possible assistance in the early days of the War, and doubtless contributed to the low incidence of outbreaks in the district. Not only were specimens received at any hour, but Dr. Cruickshank, the Officer in Charge, made his services available to the Department and to Practitioners in doubtful cases, and rendered considerable assistance in epidemiological enquiries and in field bacteriology.

Under the agreement between the District Council and the Medical Research Council commencing 1st September, 1940, all routine bacteriological work for the District (including the examination of swabs, specimens of blood and faeces, routine water samples, etc.), is now carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory and an agreed block payment made by the District Council. No limit is made to the number of specimens which may be submitted, and the scheme generally has been found of the greatest possible assistance to the Department.

The following table reveals the extent of the work carried out:-

Ncse &
Throat Swabs. Faeces. Blood. Sputum.

	<u>Throat Swabs.</u>	<u>Faeces.</u>	<u>Blood.</u>	<u>Sputum.</u>
Sept. -- Dec. 1939.	76	6	-	3
Jan. - Mar. 1940.	54	2	4	4
April - June 1940.	10	3	4	-
July - Sept. 1940.	61	5	4	-
Oct. -- Dec. 1940.	19	4	6	-

Bacteriological Specimens (Cont).

	<u>Waters.</u>	<u>Miscellaneous.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Sept. - Dec. 1939.	3	15	103
Jan. - March. 1940.	1	10	75)
April - June. 1940.	14	21	52)
July - Sept. 1940.	25	27	122)
Oct. - Dec. 1940.	9	20	58)

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Accommodation for Infectious Disease.

There has been no change in the arrangements whereby patients are admitted to Swandean Isolation Hospital, Worthing. By agreement with the Corporation of the Borough of Worthing, seven beds are reserved for cases from the Horsham Urban District.

The following cases of infectious disease were admitted during the periods ending 31st December, 1939 & 1940:-

	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940.</u>
Scarlet Fever.....	13	11
Diphtheria.....	8	1
C.S.M.....	-	1
Measles.....	-	1
	<u>21</u>	<u>14</u>

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a). The Morris Ambulance, jointly owned by the Urban and Rural District Councils, and used for the conveyance of patients suffering from infectious diseases, was purchased in 1927. Although maintained in fairly good running order, the vehicle is rather out of date.

The Caretaker to the Council Offices acts as attendant for this ambulance. It is therefore necessary on occasions to arrange for the Swandean Hospital Ambulance, with a nurse in attendance, to collect cases where the patient is a woman, or a child acutely ill.

- (b). For the collection and transfer of cases of non-infectious sickness and accident, the Horsham Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade maintains a vehicle at their Headquarters in Park Street, a resident driver being employed. The duties of attendant are undertaken by the Nursing Division of the Brigade. No grant is made by the Council in connection with this work.

In addition there is a Police Ambulance, the gift of Councillor Mrs. Laughton J.P., which is used as a reserve vehicle.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

W a t e r.

The outbreak of War gave cause for considerable anxiety in connection with the Water Scheme, in view of the fact that all water was pumped by electrical energy, thereby making the supply dependent upon the integrity of the "Grid System".

As a result of a Special Report to the Public Health Committee in June, 1940, the matter was considered, and Dr. Suckling asked to visit and report on the question of the present source and possible alternative sources of supply. He attended a Conference in July 1940 at which the Regional Water Engineer was present, and presented a report making certain recommendations. Up to the end of the period under review, no further steps had been taken in this matter.

Regular sampling of main water is carried out by the Health Department, samples being taken weekly for bacteriological examination, and monthly for full chemical and bacteriological reports. The satisfactory bacteriological reports obtained indicate that sterilization is effective, rendering the water safe from the bacteriological standpoint. The chemical analyses, however, are less satisfactory, and reveal the presence of siliceous matter together with iron and manganese, which cause discolouration and deposit. It is very desirable that, as soon as circumstances permit, the necessary reaction and settlement tanks should be installed in order to effect a removal of all suspended matter.

H o u s i n g.

In spite of the considerable amount of extra work required of the Sanitary Inspectors as a result of War conditions, this work has proceeded, 268 visits being made in 1939 and 351 in 1940. Action was taken in a number of instances under the Statutory Powers granted by the Public Health Acts, and the Housing Act, 1936.

Although not included in this abbreviated report, full details of the work are always available.

I n s p e c t i o n & S u p e r v i s i o n o f F o o d.

Regular visits have been made to Dairies and Cowsheds, and **s**ampling has proceeded as in previous years. Inspection of bakehouses, stores and places where food is prepared have

been carried out. Full details of this work are available for reference.

In January 1940, a Central Slaughter House was opened in Horsham by the Ministry of Food. This resulted in a very considerable increase in the work of the Sanitary Inspectors, as slaughtering was proceeding during long hours each day. It was therefore agreed that assistance should be rendered by an Inspector from the Horsham Rural District, in view of the fact that this work had now ceased in the surrounding rural areas.

F a c t o r i e s A c t 1 9 3 7.

Regular visits have been paid as required. Details are available in the Department.

Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

In connection with the above, 140 visits were paid in 1939 and 134 in 1940. Many baits have been laid, and structural work carried out as required.

G o v e r n m e n t E v a c u a t i o n S c h e m e.

In March 1939, the Senior Sanitary Inspector was appointed Chief Billeting Officer under the Government Evacuation Scheme. The original Survey of accommodation was carried out by the Department, assisted by members of the Townswomen's Guild. The preparation of the Scheme in its various phases involved a considerable amount of work which naturally curtailed the time available for ordinary Sanitary duties.

I N D E X.

	<u>Page.</u>
Ambulance Facilities.....	11
Area.....	3 & 5
Births & Birth-Rate.....	3 & 5
Bacteriological Specimens.....	9 & 10
Deaths & Death Rate.....	3,4,5 & 6
Diphtheria.....	7 & 10
Evacuation, Govt. Ev. Scheme.....	13
Factories Act, 1937.....	13
Food, Inspection and Supervision of.....	12
Hospitals.....	1 & 10
Houses (Inhabited).....	3 & 5
Housing.....	12
Infantile Mortality.....	3 & 5
Infectious Diseases.....	7,9 & 10
Measles.....	4,6,7 & 10
Meat and Other Foods.....	12 & 13
Milk	12
Population.....	3 & 5
Rateable Value.....	3 & 5
Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.....	13
Scarlet Fever.....	7 & 10
Social Conditions.....	3 & 5
Tuberculosis.....	4 & 8
Vital Statistics.....	3 & 5
Water.....	12
Whooping Cough.....	4,6 & 7



